



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

11. — *The Ancient Stone Implements, Weapons, and Ornaments of Great Britain.* By JOHN EVANS, F. R. S., F. S. A. New York : D. Appleton and Company. 1872. Large octavo, 640 pages, 476 wood-engravings, large plate.

THIS work, which has been expected with eagerness for some time, is now before us ; and after having examined it, we feel entitled to characterize it as a monument of minute knowledge and careful industry. The author gives much more than he promises. He describes not only in the most comprehensive manner the ancient stone implements, weapons, and ornaments of Great Britain, but also points out their analogies to kindred objects found in all parts of the world, either in the shape of relics of antiquity, or of weapons and tools still in use among uncultivated races, whose conditions of existence resemble more or less those of the primeval inhabitants of Europe. The numerous references occupying the foot of the pages indicate a most extensive reading ; indeed, the author appears to be acquainted with everything, written in any language, that has the remotest bearing upon his subject. As may be expected, the references to North America, where the stone age hardly can be said to have expired, are frequent, and render the book so much more valuable to the American reader. Although in a work of this description, which is made up of simple facts, observations, and deductions, very little room is given for a display of elegant style, the author has admirably succeeded in presenting his subject in an attractive manner, and, at the same time, in saying much in few words. There is nothing superfluous, nor is there anything omitted necessary to convey a full meaning. This course was absolutely needed ; for, if the author had indulged in lengthy phraseology, he would have failed in offering such an array of facts in a volume of little more than six hundred pages. Another feature about the work worthy of particular commendation is the great cautiousness of the author in reference to the destination of the relics he describes. Some archæologists feel themselves bound to explain the use of almost every antique object mentioned by them, however weak the arguments may be upon which they base their deductions. Certain prehistoric manufactures unmistakably bear in their shape the explanation of their use, and may be classified accordingly ; yet there are others — and their number is not small — to which a definite use thus far cannot be assigned with any degree of safety, and this being the case, a plain admission of wanting knowledge is far preferable to strained interpretations. Mr. Evans is perfectly free of that ultra-speculative tendency : he is positive where he has a right to be, and doubts where doubt is prudent.

Any one who has paid some attention to the progress of prehistoric

archæology in Europe is aware that the stone age is there divided into two epochs representing two great phases in the development of man, namely, the palæolithic and the neolithic periods. The first of these comprises the rude weapons and tools of flint made and used by man while he coexisted with the mammoth, the woolly-haired rhinoceros, urus, cave-bear, cave-lion, and other now extinct animals. These implements, the oldest known products of human art, are merely chipped, not ground, because man was not yet sufficiently skilled to render them more serviceable by providing them with smooth edges. The so-called "drift implements" and most of those found in the caves inhabited by prehistoric savages belong to this class. The neolithic period, as the name implies, embraces a more advanced stage of human progress, represented by well-chipped flint instruments, polished celts, axes, pottery, etc. This period preceded, and, to a certain extent, survived, the beginning of the age of bronze. We were at first somewhat surprised to find in the present work the neolithic implements described, contrary to the usual rule, *before* those of the palæolithic type. The author himself evidently expected objections to his arrangement, and therefore took pains to meet them promptly by arguments which, it must be admitted, are well calculated to reconcile the critical reader to his plan. "My reasons," he says (p. 425), "for thus reversing what might seem to be the natural arrangement of my subject, and ascending instead of descending the stream of time, I have already to some extent assigned. I need only now repeat that our sole chronology for measuring the antiquity of such objects is by a retrogressive scale from the present time, and not by a progression of years from any remote given epoch; and that though we have evidence of the vast antiquity of the class of implements which I am about to describe (cave and drift implements), and may at the present moment regard them as the earliest known works of man, yet we should gravely err were we for a moment to presume on the impossibility of still earlier relics being discovered. Had they been taken first in order, it might have been thought that some countenance was given to a belief that we had in these implements the first efforts of human skill, and were able to trace the progressive development of the industrial arts from the very cradle of our race. Such is by no means the case."

Our remarks concerning the contents of the volume necessarily must be short; for were we only to enumerate minutely, according to chapters, the various matters discussed by the author, we should far exceed the limits allotted to this notice. Having started by presenting a general view of the ages of stone, bronze, and iron, he passes over to the manufacture of flint implements (dwelling particularly on the methods employed by the aborigines of North America), and then enumerates

the different experiments made by archæologists to find out in what manner drilling in stone may have been effected. These subjects are treated with perfect completeness and precision, and cannot fail to be of the highest interest to all students of prehistoric archæology. The next five chapters are devoted to the numerous kinds of celts (rough-hewn, partly or entirely polished), picks, chisels, and gauges. Next in order are the perforated axes, grooved and perforated hammers, hammer-stones, grinding-stones and whet-stones, embracing four chapters. The author has taken unusual pains in describing the various classes of neolithic flint articles, including flakes and cores, scrapers, borers, drills, awls, trimmed flukes, knives, and, lastly, arrow and javelin heads. The last-named class, distinguished by the great variety of its types, of course, is treated with all due care. The flint implements extend over six chapters, including one in which the "fabricators," or flint tools used in working flint, are described. The remaining four chapters, treating of slingstones and balls, bracers, articles of bone and stag's horn, spindle-whorls, disks, weights, ornaments, amulets, etc., conclude that part of the work which has the manufactures of the neolithic type for its subject.

The second division of the book, entitled "Implements of the Palæolithic Type," contains only four chapters, but these represent *par excellence* the scientific portion of the work; for here the author combines the experiences of archæological and geological investigation, in order to discuss the important question of the antiquity of man. We become acquainted with the interesting facts resulting from cave-researches in England, and likewise learn many details concerning French caves. The remarkable manufactures of flint and bone, as well as the osseous remains of extinct mammalia, associated with them in the caves, are enumerated and described, and the circumstances of their discovery and their geological relations duly recorded. The English ossiferous caves thus treated are Kent's Cavern, Brixham Cave, the Wookey Hyena Den, the Gower Caves, and King Arthur's Cave; but much reference is also made, for the sake of comparison, to the caves of Dordogne, in Southern France, so well described in the "*Reliquiæ Aquitanicæ*," by Lartet and Christy. From the caves the author passes over to the river drifts, giving a full account of their contents, manufactures, as well as bones belonging to animals of a by-gone fauna. The last chapter, relating to the "Antiquity of the River Drift," in itself is a geological essay of great merit.

Though certain types of the palæolithic epoch bear a resemblance to the manufactures of the later neolithic period, the former are generally of a different, more primitive character, giving evidence that the savage men, who made and used them, stood extremely low in the scale of

human development. When we consider that these people were surrounded by numerous animals distinguished either by tremendous size, or rapacity combined with great strength (as in the case of the cave-bear and cave-lion), it becomes almost a matter of marvel how they succeeded in holding their own against such odds, armed as they were — during the drift period at least — only with rudely worked oval or pointed flints, probably shafted to serve as hatchets and spears.

Having thus indicated, certainly in a very cursory way, the contents of the volume, we have to say something about the numerous engravings representing the described objects. They certainly compare favorably with the best efforts of this kind ever offered to the public, either in this country or abroad. The articles, in general, are drawn in natural or in half-size, and mostly in two views, to which a cross-section is often added. The drawings of the flint articles, particularly, cannot fail to satisfy the most fastidious connoisseur: they are, indeed, so well executed that every crack and fracture becomes distinctly visible, and even the chalky crust covering the unchipped portions can be plainly distinguished.

To the American reader, who is acquainted with the stone implements of our Indian predecessors, it must be a matter of great interest to notice the remarkable analogy existing between the simple manufactures of the prehistoric Europeans and those of the natives of this country. In fact, to many, if not most, of the types represented in Mr. Evans's work counterparts are found here; and not few of the drawings of flint flakes, scrapers, arrowheads, celts, chisels, hammer-stones, etc. might have been executed after American originals. Yet, this resemblance cannot be a matter of surprise. The exigencies of external circumstances have regulated the progress of human development, compelling, as it were, the populations of different parts of the world to act, independently of each other, in a similar manner, provided there was a sufficient similarity in their conditions of life. The same wants led to the same means for satisfying them, and hence the correspondence in the simple articles employed in domestic life, in war, or in hunting.

Mr. Evans's work, we are confident, will find many readers in the United States, not only among those who make archæology their special study, but also among the educated classes in general. The great popularity which the writings of Sir Charles Lyell, Sir John Lubbock, Nilsson, and others have acquired in this country demonstrates that literary productions relating to the primitive condition and the gradual development of the human race find more and more favor with our public. A like success may be anticipated for Mr. Evans's work, which, to say the least, is equal to the best of its kind published in our time.